

### **REMARKS**

Claims 2-6 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 7-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

#### **Specification**

The Examiner objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure as including informalities. Applicants have amended the Abstract in a manner believed to overcome these informalities.

#### **Drawings**

The Examiner requested that Figs. 15-17 be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. Accordingly, Applicants have submitted herewith replacement drawing sheets wherein Figs. 15-17 have been labeled as --Prior Art--.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, and 11, under §112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner asserted that the word “type” renders “toroidal” indefinite. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the claims so as to remove the term “type”.

#### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 3, and 11, under §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Reference 2000-9200 (hereinafter JP ‘200). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because JP ‘200 fails to disclose all the elements as set forth in the claims.

Claim 2 sets forth a toroidal continuously variable transmission comprising: a casing; input and output disks; trunnions; shift shafts; power rollers; a support member fixed directly to said casing and supporting said pivot shafts of said trunnions so as to be shifted in an axial direction thereof and in an inclined rotation direction thereof; needle roller bearings for supporting said pivot shafts of said trunnions on said support member; and spherical-surface

bearings for supporting said needle roller bearings; wherein said spherical-surface bearings each includes spherical-surface-shaped inner and outer races.

For example, as shown in Fig. 1, one embodiment of the present invention is a toroidal continuously variable transmission comprising: a casing 1; trunnions 14 having pivot shafts 16; a support member 55 fixed directly to said casing 1 and supporting said pivot shafts 16 of said trunnions 14 so as to be shifted in an axial direction thereof and in an inclined rotation direction thereof; needle roller bearings 53 for supporting said pivot shafts 16 on said support member 55; and spherical-surface bearings 50 for supporting said needle roller bearings 53; wherein said spherical-surface bearings 50 each includes spherical-surface-shaped 54a, 55a inner and outer races 54, 55.

In JP '200, pivot shaft 29 is supported swingably and movably in a axial direction by radial needle roller bearing 36, so as to disposed inside the support hole 31 formed on a yoke 54 directly fixed on the casing 5. In this construction, an outer surface of the outer race 37—which forms radial needle roller bearing 36—is formed a spherical-shaped convex surface. However, the outer race 37 of the radial needle roller bearing is inserted onto a flat surface of the support hole 31. See the attached Exhibit A, which is based on Fig. 1 of JP '200. That is, there is no spherical bearing having a spherical-surface-shaped inner and outer races. On the other hand, in the present invention, a radial needle roller is supported by a spherical bearing. And the spherical bearing comprises spherical-surface-shaped inner and outer races. Therefore the construction of the present invention is different from that of JP '200.

For at least any of the above reasons, JP '200 fails to anticipate claim 2. Likewise, this reference fails to anticipate dependent claims 3-6.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

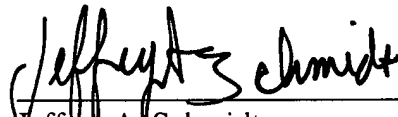
Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten. However, Applicants have not rewritten claim 5 because of the belief that claim 2 is allowable as written.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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# EXHIBIT A

<JP-2000-92000>

